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Marilyn Wright  
*Iowa State College*

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# Caroling Through the Ages

by Marilyn Wright

Applied Art Senior

THE SINGING of Christmas carols has echoed through the ages to contribute much to our spirit of Christmas today. In the year 129 the Bishop of Rome instituted the custom of celebrating the Nativity with Christmas carols, and the first known carol was "Gloria in Excelsis Deo." The words of the song were taken from the Bible, which was only a group of stories at that time.

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come,

Let earth receive her King; . . ."

Perhaps this is the most universal Christmas song with an appeal to all age groups and religions. Handel, admiring its beauty, used the notes of the phrase "Joy to the world" for his own "Lift up your heads" in the "Messiah."

## "Messiah" in 23 Days

In England the Christmas season was fast approaching as the King's choir rehearsed a new work. The composer, Handel, had completed the work in 23 days, an unheard-of thing in music circles. The "Messiah" was then performed, and, as the final chorus was sung by the great choir, the King and his court stood in awe and reverence. This custom is still carried on whenever an audience hears the words, "For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth," as the strains of the "Hallelujah Chorus" fill the air.

"Hark! All round the welkin ring

Bright Seraphs hailed the morn

That ushers in the King of Kings

That saw a Savior born."

Carols such as the above were

always being changed down through the years. Actually, there are only 20 or 25 carols which have withstood the test of time and are still being sung today. Passed from one generation to another by families of troubadours, they weren't recorded until monks, or others interested in the music of that day, took quill in hand and saved them for posterity.

## Written for Children

An Episcopal minister who visited Bethlehem on Christmas Eve had a dream of the small children in his Sunday School singing of this wee town with the peaceful air about it. Phillip Brooks then fulfilled his dream by writing "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem."

Far away in the Austrian Alps Joseph Mohr and a group of friends once gathered to prepare

for the coming holiday season. During the evening Mohr suddenly retired from the group, for he had thought of writing the perfect Christmas carol. Later he reappeared at the party and gave the lyrics to a friend who wrote the music on the way home that evening. The two men accompanied themselves on a guitar as the strains of the now famous "Silent Night, Holy Night" rang out through the crisp, snow-dappled air.

During the early 1600's when the Indian tribes of Canada were fighting most fiercely, Jesuit missionaries came to the territory bringing the story of Jesus. Soon the savages set aside nights for worshipful singing, and even those of opposing tribes would meet together in the chapel for exchanging gifts while they sang.

"Twas in the moon of winter time

When all the birds had fled,

Mighty Gitchi Manituo sent angel choirs instead.

While Chiefs from far before Him knelt,

With gifts of fox and beaver pelt."

(Continued on page 16)



"Up on the housetop, reindeer paws" may have been running through artist Fred Meyer's head as he painted this charming scene of Christmas preparations at the village store. The real title of the painting is "Flying Reindeer," and more about the artist can be found in Trends.

## Caroling

(Continued from page 9)

One of the first carols we learn as children is "Away in a Manger." This carol is one of the biggest mysteries to the experts, for no positive author has ever been named.

To change the scene slightly, imagine yourself in the high, desolate hills of Kentucky. It is Christmas Eve, and the stars are high in the heaven when the sound of a beautiful voice reaches your ears, and the music blends with the winds. Though plaintive and lonely, there is something about this haunting melody which appeals to you as you hear the words,

"I wonder as I wander

Out under the sky."

John Jacob Niles, a modern writer, has written down many of the folk songs of the United States which have been passed by word for generations.

## Corsages for Christmas

by Jean Goul

EVERYONE LOVES TO RECEIVE Christmas packages with gaily-colored wrappings. It seems discouraging to the package decorator, however, to know that her artistic efforts will soon be ripped apart by an eager hand and thrown into the wastebasket.

A long life for your efforts can be a reality; this year your packages can have a new charm—decorate them with tie-on corsages which you can easily and inexpensively make. In a few minutes, you'll have a colorful decoration for a package or your Christmas table, fireplace or window.

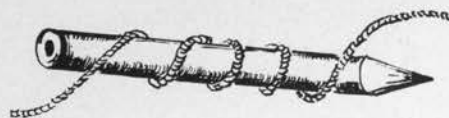
### Simple Equipment

The articles of equipment needed are found in every home—scissors, pencil and Scotch tape. Your bill for materials will depend on how many packages you wrap.

You will need chenille-covered wire, which can be purchased at a florist shop; it looks like colored pipe cleaners. Buy a variety of bolts of ribbon. Red, green and gold are traditional Christmas package colors, but the colors and widths are up to you. Novelty ribbons with snowflakes, berries or stripes are especially gay; and don't forget to buy at least one bolt of narrow ribbon. Holly leaves, berries, tinsel and a roll of thin wire complete your purchases.

With these materials you can construct festive corsages to wire or Scotch tape to your wrapped packages. A perky and crisp bow is the basis of many corsages, so practice looping and tying ribbon. If you want them big and puffy, don't skimp on the ribbon.

Start with the easy "Holly 'n Bow" corsage. Make three small red bows by looping ribbon around your fingers and then tying the loops in the middle. Wire them, one right next to the other, to a 4-inch piece of chenille-covered wire. Wire in four holly leaves at different angles, and your corsage is ready to go from package to Christmas tree or coat lapel. (1)



By wrapping chenille-covered wire around the pencil, you can make colored curls. Tie a bow each at the end of three such curls, and wire the bowed-ends to your package ribbon. This "Bowed Hello" corsage will reach right into the arms of the package's receiver.

Fold pieces of gold tinsel into 2-inch lengths. Wrap wire around one end of the bunch, and trim the other end with a scissors giving a whisk-broom effect. Wire

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